



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Lynne De Bruin, 15th District

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CUTS TO PARATRANSIT SERVICE AREA MAY NOT OCCUR UNTIL 2011

Milwaukee, WI – Supervisor Lynne De Bruin is informing County residents that the previously reported cut in Milwaukee County's Transit Plus Paratransit service may not occur as soon as originally projected. The biennial State Budget passed earlier this year included \$1.8 million in T-19 (Medicaid) funding for Paratransit services, with a provision to transfer responsibility for T-19 rides to a broker, which could leave County residents living more than three-fourths of a mile from a bus line without any Paratransit service.

However, new information from Anita Gulotta-Connelly, Managing Director of the Milwaukee County Transit System, reveals that no definitive date has been set for the broker service to be implemented. Originally, the State said it would happen by January 2010, then July 2010, and it now appears that it may not be implemented until January of 2011.

The funds are in the 2010 Milwaukee County Budget, and Paratransit rides will be provided throughout the entire County for all of 2010. However, if the State moves to a broker arrangement, Milwaukee County may no longer be able to provide Paratransit services beyond the three-quarter mile zone. The final decision on any timetable or how much service is lost is ultimately up to the State of Wisconsin.

"A number of individuals were planning to attend our public hearing on Monday to ask the County Board to find a way to restore the Paratransit funding," Supervisor De Bruin said. "Certainly, they are still welcome to attend, but I wanted to let them know that, at least temporarily, it appears that this funding could continue through the end of next year."

The County Board's annual Public Hearing on the County Executive's 2010 Recommended Budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, November 2, 2009, at the Washington Park Senior Center.

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